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## **DIPLOMACY BY** **SATELLITE**

### **Foreign Office link with embassies**

By Our Science Reporter

Plans to link British embassies to the Foreign Office in London by a communications satellite are expected to be disclosed next week.

The Government Communications Headquarters, Cheltenham, which handles most of the security communications systems for the Government, are examining a site at Bude, Cornwall, as the place to build a £500,000 dish for handling satellite messages.

This site is in the grounds of the old Cleeve Army camp, some way from the satellite tracking station operated by the G.P.O. at Goonhilly. Communications specialists from Cheltenham have visited Goonhilly to study the methods used there for handling telephone traffic. This will be the type of messages coming by way of the radio link.

The satellite use of radio link would provide a more secure way of sending information with the new but highly complicated methods of transmission, such as pulse code modulation and spectrum spread messages can be sent in codes that are almost impossible to crack.

Satellites are vulnerable to jamming. If all the operating characteristics of a satellite are known bogus messages could be sent in a steady stream to overload the circuit.

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